BY MR. C. SUBBA RAO (Chitaldrug).—

Q—30. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) What is the amount of annual railway cess collected in the Tumkur District and what is the amount similarly collected in the Chitaldrug District?

(*b*) What is the aggregate amount so far collected in both the districts?

(*c*) What is the probable outlay required for laying a Railway line from Chitaldrug to Tumkur?

(*d*) Are the Government contemplating the extension of Chitaldrug-Chikjajur Railway to Tumkur?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FOR RAILWAYS.—

A.—30.

		About Rs
(*a*) Tumkur District	..	43,000-0-0
Chitaldrug ,,	....	50,000-0-0
(*b*) Tumkur ,,	...	3,87,353-0-0
Chitaldrug ,,	....	4,66,595-1-10

(*c*) The approximate cost according to an estimate prepared in March 1919 for a Metre Gauge line is Rs. 51,07,622 at Rs. 58,133 per mile including Rs. 12,000 per mile for rolling stock, and at the present rates, it will be about Rs. 64·10 lakhs at a mileage rate of Rs. 72,840 including rolling stock.

(*d*) Not at present.

Supplementary Questions.

Mr. C. Subba Rao.—

If as is stated in reply to question (*d*), will the Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to refund the railway cess collected by them?

Dewan.—

That question does not arise out of the original interpellation.

Mr. C. Subba Rao.—

Can the Government allow the interest on the amount of railway cess deposited?

Dewan.—

The collections are all deposited in the Savings Bank and 5 per cent interest is received on that. Government themselves do not use that money at all.

Mr. Rudrappa.—

Is it to be understood that no railway would be put up until the Government get 64 lakhs of rupees?

Dewan.—

That impression is not conveyed by the reply given.

Mr. Rudrappa.—

How long would it take to lay the railway line?

Dewan.—

It is not possible for either this Assembly or the Government to commit the future administration by fixing a particular period of time. The whole question will be examined and a regular programme cast..

By MR. D. S. MALLAPPA (Tiptur Taluk).—

Q.—31. Will the Government be pleased to give the following information:—

(*a*) The total number of members of the Chamber of Commerce to which special representation has been given in the Legislative Council. the Representative Assembly and other Representative bodies.

(*b*) The number of members of the said Chamber belonging to the cities of Bangalore and Mysore and those to the moffusil places.

(*c*) The amount of grant given to the Chamber by Government in each year since its inception.

(*d*) The number of members in each of the three years.

(*e*) The number of branches and the number of moffusil members that the Chamber had during the first three years.

(*f*) The reason why there is a decrease in the number of members in recent years and why the branches were abolished?

(*g*) Whether the Chamber represents the various interests of the mercantile classes and the total amount of expenditure involved for salaries and other charges and